



GOVERNOR'S ARIZONA READY EDUCATION COUNCIL MINUTES

General Meeting – September 11, 2013

10:00 A.M.

Location: 1700 W. Washington
Third Floor Conference Room
Phoenix, AZ

Members Present: Dr. Craig Barrett (telephonic), Tim Carter, Pearl Esau, Dr. Rufus Glasper, Brad Holaway (telephonic), Eileen Klein, Jake Logan, Amanda McAdams, Diane McCarthy, Jacob Moore, Colleen Niccum, Kathy Player, Tom Tyree, Sandra Watson (telephonic), and Dr. Jim Zaharis.

Members Absent: Rep. Jeff Dial (ex-officio), Rep. Doris Goodale (ex-officio), Glen Hamer, Superintendent John Huppenthal, Onnie Shekerjian, Merl Waschler, and Sen. Kimberly Yee (ex-officio).

Staff Present: Kelsey Bullington, Rebecca Gau, Dale Frost, and Kerry McConnell

Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions

Dr. Craig Barrett called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., and after a moment of silence in honor of the victims of September 11th, introduced the purpose of the meeting, which was to receive updates on the National Common Core Landscape, the Governor's Office of Education Innovation (GOEI) Reform Plan, the Standards and Assessment Pillar, the Arizona Ready Report Card, and discuss the Revisions of Goals 3 & 4.

Dr. Barrett called for an approval of the July 31, 2013 Council meeting minutes as presented. Tom Tyree moved for the approval, Jake Logan and Diane McCarthy seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Update: National Common Core Landscape

Michael Gilligan with Achieve gave the Council a brief overview of Achieve's past work and supportive position on Common Core. Mr. Gilligan then updated the Council on the state of Common Core on the national level, highlighting the fact that there is currently a lot of debate going on, regarding several issues, such as whether the standards are challenging enough or whether they are too challenging. Mr. Gilligan pointed out that these types of debates are healthy. Mr. Frost asked Mr. Gilligan what aspects of the Standards in Michigan were defunded. Mr. Gilligan stated in response that Michigan's legislative language dictates that no implementation of the Standards is to be funded, even though current implementation is already in progress. Mr. Tyree asked how other

states have dealt with this issue, and inquired as to what Arizona's backup plan might be if we were to face similar roadblocks. Mr. Gilligan replied that this question is difficult to answer because the context is so state-specific, but some states have chosen to use private vendors as an alternative to the standardized assessments. Mr. Gilligan points out that these other options each with their own unique ramifications as well. Ms. Niccum then asked how implementation is going in other states. Mr. Gilligan provided some examples of other states (Tennessee and New York, specifically), who have been very successful, including brief descriptions of what each did to succeed. Dr. Zaharis pointed out that since Achieve does have a stake in some of the programs in development, that we will most likely need a third party to determine whether or not everything is measuring up to state standards. Mr. Gilligan and Dr. Zaharis both agreed that NGA might be a good option for taking on that role.

Ms. Esau announced to the Council that Expect More Arizona in partnership with the Public Engagement Taskforce received a grant from Achieve to support the successful implementation of the standards and assessments. As a result, "we now have a 3 year partnership with Achieve, for them to come and work more closely and partner with our state to help us to see this through."

It was noted by Ms. Klein that the Council should be diligent and be careful not to favor one assessment step over another until they have gone through stringent testing by an independent party to determine which one would be best for the state.

Dr. Zaharis asked for a timeline for the RFI and the RFP. Vince Yanez, the Executive Director for the Arizona State Board of Education, responded that the RFI should be out by the beginning of October. The RFP will likely be out in the Spring Semester.

Update: GOEI Reform Plan

Rebecca Gau with the Governor's Office of Education Innovation reported that the measures of the four goals have all been increasing, and this increase has "been consistent across time. And from a systems perspective, to have a large system-wide momentum in four areas consistently, is actually pretty impressive." Ms. Gau then went through the details and aspects of each goal, addressing the specifics of how much each measure has increased.

The Council was informed by Ms. Gau that Arizona Ready's four focus areas (known as "pillars") have been relabeled in order to better demonstrate and describe the action-oriented nature of each pillar. This new ordered and multi-layered approach to thinking about what needs to be done to achieve the goals was inspired by GOEI's recent work with the U.S. Education Delivery Institute (EDI).

Dr. Zaharis made the comment that the purpose of Arizona Ready is to show the public that the Governor, the State Superintendent, the Board of Regents, the business community, and the people delivering the message are all one voice and that each party has agreed to that single message.

In future Council meetings, Arizona Ready's Pillar leads will provide pillar-specific updates on current progress and project statuses. Individual Council members are encouraged to partner or collaborate with GOEI on relevant projects.

Update: Standards and Assessment Pillar

Kelsey Bullington with the Governor's Office of Education Innovation provided the Council with an overview of GOEI's progress on their four primary strategies. The strategy of "communicating effectively and often" is going quite well, which is reflected in part by the fact that GOEI now has over 15,000 likes on Facebook. The strategies of "breaking down the silos between key groups" and "strengthening real world relevance," are both reported to be going fairly well, while progress on the strategy of "adopting quality assessments to replace AIMS" is slowing down as additional required data is still being collected.

Ms. Bullington also made a couple of announcements with respect to events taking place in October:

- Glenn Beck is going to be performing at Comerica Theater on the 11th.
- The Arizona Senate is planning an informational hearing on Common Core, likely on the 30th. Out of state Common Core opposition is expected. Please note that Senate President Andy Bates will host, not Senator Yee as stated at the Council meeting.

Update: Arizona Ready Report Card

Kerry McConnell with the Governor's Office of Education Innovation presented the Council with an update on the progress of the Third Grade Literacy and Eighth Grade Math Performance goals via the Arizona Ready Report Card. She provided an overview of both county and school-level data and reported a generally positive recent trend in both goals, though with much variability. The report on each goal was followed by information on factors (both positive and negative) that impact these numbers directly, as well as a short summary of what actions can be taken to promote further improvement.

It was suggested by Dr. Zaharis that the data on the Report Card does a great job at pointing out some of the larger problems, allowing us to track accountability throughout the entire school system and provide relevant assistance where needed.

Mr. Moore announced that a Tribal Leaders Summit on Common Core in Indian Country. It is likely to be a day and a half event, and it will feature leadership from many different programs and systems, each of which has a strong influence on the education system. One goal of this summit is to make the connection between education within tribal communities and the educational goals of individual tribal nations. The date of this summit is tentatively January or February 2014, and it will be centrally located in the Phoenix area.

Discussion: Revisions of Goals 3 & 4

Ms. Gau presented the Council with goal revision recommendations before asking the Council if they had any input they would like to offer. Some changes of language were suggested with respect to clarification of the intended meaning (particularly what it means to be Career Ready). It was also suggested that two year degrees and certificates be included as part of the post high school graduation goal as to emphasize the significance of community colleges. The notion of adding a new goal entirely, one that focuses on community college degree and certificate programs, was briefly discussed.

For all of these items, it was decided that further revisions would be made and that no action would be taken at this time.

Council Comments

Dr. Barrett reviewed possible agenda topics for the October 22nd meeting;

- Discuss future collaboration with Achieve
- Update on the revisions of Goals 3 & 4
- Update on Common Core
- Discuss defense against Common Core opponents
- Public Engagement Task Force update

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjourn

With no further business before the Council, Jake Logan motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jacob Moore and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.